senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems, constituting a Committee of Secretaries to address inter-ministerial and central-state issues and has taken action against defaulting contractors in order to ensure completion of National Highways works as per stipulated time frame.

Four-laning of Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur Section

†2296. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) had invited tenders some days ago for four-laning of Patna-Hajipur-Muzaffarpur section of East-West four-lane Highway in order to connect Muzaffarpur to Patna in Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that process of construction of the said road is still incomplete as no one has submitted any tender against the invited tenders; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's view point in this regard and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) 4 laning of Patna-Muzaffarpur section of NH 19 & 77 has been included under NHDP Phase III in the State of Bihar on BOT (Toll) mode. Bids for 4 laning of Patna-Muzaffarpur Section of NH 19 & 77 were invited in June 2005 under old Model Concession Agreement (MCA) for which no response was received. Bids were again invited for the second time in June 2007 on the basis of new MCA with the last date of submission of bid as 20.08.2007. But, no response was received this time also.

(d) As there is no response of bidders on toll based BOT bid for the project stretch, Government has accorded approval for changing the mode of upgradation of Patna-Muzaffarpur Section of NH 19 & 77 from BOT (Toll) to BOT (Annuity).

Spud lying in sea near Ramsetu

2297. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a 50 tonne spud is lying unsalvaged for over 12 months in the sea near Ramsetu;

(b) whether it is because of turbulence of sea waves which may not allow smooth ship movement;

(c) whether this spud is damaging vessels and fishing nets; and

(d) whether the affected parties have been paid compensation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Broken spud pieces weighing about 67 tonnes,

†*Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.*

pertaining to Dredge Aquarius which were broken during dredging operations during December, 2006 are lying south of Adams Bridge area.

(b) The dredging work at Adams Bridge area is not completed and the channel is not commissioned. Hence, the question of affecting shipping movement does not arise.

(c) There is no report of any damage to vessels of fishing nets.

(d) Does not arise.

Tender for NH-14

†2298. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether DPR of Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar road (NH-8) has been prepared by NHAI whereas the tender for Beawar-Pali-Sirohi-Pindwara road (NH-14) has not yet been invited;

(b) by when the said tender would be invited; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Kishangarh-Ajmer-Beawar section of NH-8 has been prepared by National Highways Authority of India, whereas for Beawar-Pali-Sirohi-Pindwara section of NH-14 preparation of DPR has been taken up. Invitation of tenders will depend upon the financial viability and approval from Public Private Partnership Appraisal Committee (PPPAC).

Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana

†2299. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted proposals regarding four-laning of certain National Highways under "Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana";

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken by Government on the proposals;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) by when the work of four-laning of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh is likely to commence; and

(e) the places where four-laning of National Highways would be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) The State Government of Madhya Pradesh had proposed in May 2004 the following sections of National Highways for four laning/two laning under Pradhan Mantri Bharat Jodo Pariyojana.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.